

The Evening World.

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VICTORY!

THE war is over.
The German military command has signed the terms of its surrender. Those terms make a resumption of hostilities impossible.

No more fighting, no more sacrifice of lives. The victory is won. The pathway to peace lies open.

With thankfulness and rejoicing in their hearts the American people lift their voices with the voices of the peoples of the Allied Nations in one vast psalm of triumph.

Problems and responsibilities of the final peace settlement lie ahead. They will be met in the same high spirit and purpose that have carried the great fight for freedom and justice to its glorious conclusion.

For the moment, however, the Nation can only give itself up to the joy of the victory.

It will be the greatest Thanksgiving in the history of the world.

ALL-AMERICAN.

WHATEVER the final balance between Democrats and Republicans in Congress, one thing is certain:

The National Legislature is going to be, to an unusual degree, broadly and evenly representative of the Nation.

Neither to the Democratic Party nor to the Republican Party has been entrusted the exclusive privilege and duty of carrying the country through the termination of the great war into the period of reconstruction.

The responsibility of supporting the President in the momentous task of bringing this Nation's part in the conflict to a conclusion worthy of its declared purposes is going to rest upon Republicans and Democrats alike.

A large part of that responsibility will consist in remembering that the people of the United States have not fought this war as Democrats or Republicans, and that it is not the will of the Nation to meet the consequences and problems resulting from the war with either a primarily Democratic or a primarily Republican plan of action.

Differences of opinion as to how problems of peace and reconstruction can best be solved are bound to arise. Divergencies of view will be in many cases wide. It will be impossible wholly to keep such differences from crystallizing into party issues or to prevent strong party feeling from exploiting them for party ends.

To a large majority of Americans, however, it will seem that not only international readjustments but many practical domestic changes, such as the gradual restoration of normal traffic movements, the distribution of food and fuel on a peace basis, the decentralization of Government functions no longer requiring concentration for war purposes, can be carried out in the interest of Nation or State without a constantly irksome and obstructive drawing of party lines.

Enough people in the United States feel this way to exert a strong corrective influence upon members of Congress whose political instincts, even in the presence of great issues, are forever prompting them to play a factional game.

Whatever political leaders may profess to believe, Americans generally, at the present time, are not markedly inclined to number themselves as Democrats, Republicans or members of other political groups. They tend much more to think of themselves as citizens of a Nation which has been unified—politically as well as morally—to an unwonted degree and for a great purpose.

Instinctively they feel the Nation would do well to be in no hurry to divest itself of that unity while so many questions of moment affecting the combined interests of all Americans remain to be dealt with.

Allowing for the exigencies of the party system, and the habits developed thereby, something of that feeling has undoubtedly expressed itself, paradoxically, in the close balance between Democrats and Republicans just elected to Congress.

Re-elected and newly elected members of Congress should so read the result.

ALL the people of the United States, of all parties, have felt themselves represented in the war.

ALL the people of the United States, of all parties, wish to feel themselves represented in the victory and in the reconstructive programme to be entered upon with peace.

Eight thousand dockhands, firemen, mates and others upon whose work depends the running of railroad ferries and lighters in New York Harbor went on strike last night in anticipation of the Government's refusal to accede to their demands for a new time and wage schedule.

Let the rights in this particular case be on the one side or on the other. Does it appear from the experience of the past year that the Government has been much more successful than private corporations in adjusting differences with employees in a manner to save the public from the losses, inconvenience or worse consequences of a strike?

Except, that is, where the Government has promptly raised wages and shortened hours as per demand.

"Anything at All"

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